



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

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Agenda Item No.

City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Councilmember Hanley
Date: April 13, 2009
Subject: Appointments to the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council (GAAFSC)

Recommendation: Approve the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Placer County that governs appointments to the GAAFSC.

Background

The original MOU was between the City of Auburn, Placer County and various local fire agencies to provide for appointments to GAAFSC. In discussions with the local fire agencies, the GAAFSC decided at its March 30th meeting that a better structure for GAAFSC would be for the fire agencies representatives to serve as "liaisons" rather than formally appointed members. This change will assist in establishing a quorum for meetings and put less pressure on the valuable time of fire agency representatives.

Under the new structure, there will be 8 appointed members of GAAFSC, 4 appointed by the city and 4 by the county. This streamlined structure is reflected in the new MOU. The MOU will be put on a future agenda for the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF AUBURN AND PLACER COUNTY
TO
APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE GREATER AUBURN AREA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Section 1.0 Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding, entered into by the City of Auburn and the County of Placer, outlines the process for the appointment of members to the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council ("Council" or GAAFSC). Active participation by residents and by representatives of government agencies from within the Council's planning area will help ensure that community fire safe plans are developed and implemented. The full and aggressive implementation of community fire safe plans will save lives and property in the Greater Auburn Area.

Section 2.0 Mission Statement

The purpose of the Council is to: (1) Educate the public regarding the dangers associated with living in a Wildland Urban Interface Area and to assist in identifying high-risk areas; (2) Provide a Community Fire Safe Plan ("the Plan") for those areas covered by the Council; (3) Cooperate with all related public and governmental agencies to implement the Plan; and (4) Promote fuel reduction programs and projects which will provide a safer environment in the event of wildfires which may threaten the area.

Section 3.0 Membership

The Council shall consist of a maximum of 8 voting members. The County of Placer shall appoint four (4) members to the Council for terms of two (2) years. The Supervisor(s) representing the Council's planning area should take the lead in recommending appointments to the full Board. Members shall maintain a primary residence within the boundaries of the council's planning area. The City of Auburn shall appoint four (4) members for terms of two (2) years. Members shall maintain a primary residence within the city limits. Members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and Auburn City Council may be removed and replaced at the discretion of each governing body.

Section 4.0 Liaisons to GAAFSC

The Council's mission can only be accomplished by working with the federal, state, and local agencies within the Council's planning area and have some responsibility for reducing the wood fuel levels, managing the lands or providing firefighting capabilities. The federal Bureau of Reclamation, CalFire, Placer County Office of Emergency Services, Auburn Fire, Newcastle Fire, and Penryn Fire are encouraged to appoint a member to serve as a liaison to the GAAFSC.

Section 5.0 Council Organization and Duties

The Council may develop bylaws and community fire safe plans and projects, participate in fire safe alliances, and issue recommendations to individuals, private organizations and public entities, and carry out all duties necessary to carry out the Council's mission.

Section 6.0 Abrogation

Any of the parties may end their participation in the Council at anytime.